

Carbon Solutions New England Forestry Model

Key Concepts and Potential Recommendations

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Key Concepts

- Sustainably managed forests in New Hampshire forests provide a broad range of ecosystem goods and services (“ecosystem services”) to New Hampshire including:
 - carbon sequestration and storage;
 - biomass for a variety of forest products;
 - ecological functions; and
 - various recreational opportunities.
- Increasing the rate of timber harvest without changing wood use or forested land loss reduces the rate of carbon sequestration and total carbon storage in the short-term and leads to a higher sequestration rate over the long-term.

Key Concepts

- Reallocating non-durable grade wood to biomass energy (e.g., electric generation, heating) results in a significant positive carbon benefit.
- Sustainably managed forests possess a significant economic development potential.
- The maintenance of working forests is an essential mechanism to provide value to forested lands and avoid forested land conversion.

Key Potential Recommendations

- Maximize the avoidance of existing forested land loss and eliminate the net loss of forested land.
 - Preserve/maintain working forests.
 - Adopt land use and transportation planning that maintains the traditional settlement patterns in cities and towns.
- Adopt sustainable forest management techniques that maximize harvested tree size.
 - (*Potentially*) Maximize Forest Stewardship Council certification in the state.
- Biomass energy can provide a resource that complements expanded energy efficiency and energy conservation programs and generation by other forms of renewables.

Key Potential Recommendations

- Promote wood for energy to the extent that it displaces fossil fuel consumption and promotes economic development.
 - Direct biomass to the best and highest use for energy.
 - Direct early cull to energy.
 - Maximize the energy that can be generated from forest products industry waste.
- Develop alternative and stable funding mechanisms, including potential RGGI Funds, to support the protection of working forests.
- Develop mechanisms to fully value forest ecosystem services and to compensate landowners for the maintenance of those services.

Questions

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